

INFORMATION REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 2 OCT 50

SUBJECT Kablo National Enterprise in Slovakia

NO. OF PAGES 3

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF  
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The Kablo National Enterprise is located in Bratislava (P49/X99). Its manager is Ing. Markovic, a Slovak and a non-Communist. His colleagues are Ing. Jamu, Ing. Pisa, Sincl and several good production and research engineers. Kablo manufactures insulated electric cable and brass wire, rubber insulation and other insulating materials, such as bakelite and pressed mica.
2. All other cable manufacturing plants are under Kablo management, which supervises these subsidiaries as the Kablo Branch of the Central Management for Industry in Prague. There is a Kablo plant in Topolcany (P49/T64) in Slovakia. The question of separating the Gumon plant in Bratislava, formerly a Kablo auxiliary plant, from Kablo management is also under consideration. Plants of the Kablo National Enterprise in Bohemia and Moravia are located in the following cities:

Kladno (N51/L59)  
Hostivar (051/L88)  
Kolin (051/M38)  
Podmokly (N50/Q28)  
Vsetin (P50/O43)  
Velke Mezirici (050/M91)

3. The main plant in Bratislava, employing 2,600 people, offers few possibilities with regard to enlargement as it is located in the center of the city near the Danube and the "Small Railway Station". Some of the buildings are not part of Kablo but are subordinate to the Ocelana National Enterprise in Prague, manufacturing steel ropes. The buildings, some of which are three stories high, are constructed of concrete.
4. The machinery, which is on the whole inferior to US equipment but is in good condition and can be replaced from the Czech economy, consists of special equipment for winding cables, for braiding insulated cables, for encasing the cables in lead, rubber, and paper covering, and for covering the insulated cables with textile fibers. There is also a submersion furnace for impregnating cables with asphalt in the molten state (Ponorne pece pro nasycovani vodicu

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Class. Changed To: TS S (C)

Auth: HR 70-2

Date: 20 JUN 1978

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teplym sfaltem). Resistance is tested in the factory itself, and there is also a central testing shop in which the insulation is tested under a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 million volt current. In the fine-wire enamelling shop there are eight horizontal furnaces and four vertical ones. The new enamelling varnish produced from nylon and cresol is a better fine-wire varnish than those used abroad.

5. A Kablo specialty of the Bratislava plant is the production of cast rubber plugs on rubber insulated cords, all in one piece. This special type of cord is called Floxo. Telephone cables capable of carrying up to 2,000 wires are also produced. Up to the present time aluminum cables are not produced in Czechoslovakia, nor are copper-encased, oxide of magnesium insulated wires produced by Kablo.
6. The capacity of the Czech cable factories is large enough to handle any demands put upon them. Kablo's exports to the USSR return 250 to 400 million Kcs annually. The USSR delivers to Czechoslovakia, in return, a sufficient amount of copper to account for and replace the copper consumed in the production of these deliveries. However, Soviet refusal to pay the full purchase price of these cables in copper indicates that the USSR is probably also suffering from a lack of copper. Despite a shortage of copper, however, the military importance of Kablo should not be underestimated; the capacity of the industry is great, and its wide dispersion would make destruction of it to any significant degree very difficult.
7. The Topolocany plant, employing 500 people, has been erected by the Bratislava Central Management under the Two Year Plan.\* It produces primarily molded plastic accessories, especially of bakelite, rather than the cables themselves. Only flat telephone cables for telephone switchboards requiring a complicated machine, the only model of which (a French type) is located in this plant, are produced here.
8. The main workshop is 4,000 sq. meters in size, and the building has an arched roof with skylights both in the ceiling and walls. Another building is to be erected in the near future. The machinery consists chiefly of presses for the production of plastic articles. The military significance of the plant is slight.
9. The Gumon National Enterprise in Bratislava, located in a highly industrial area of the city, is situated in the midst of malt, thread, and chocolate factories. Gumon is at present managed by Kablo, but as previously mentioned, its ultimate disposition is as yet undetermined. However, as this plant is, to a large extent, a source of insulation parts for Kablo, it is possible that Gumon will remain under Kablo management. If, however, it should be made entirely independent of Kablo, it will probably fall under the management of the Chemistry Area Management, as has been the case with the Bohemian plants producing pressed plastic articles. But since in Slovakia synthetic substances are considered a new construction material, the emphasis falls on the machinery and molds used in producing them in finished form rather than on the chemical aspect of the plant's production.
10. The equipment consists of 100 to 150 presses of varying sizes used in producing bakelite articles. Most of them are old steam or electrically heated vertical presses. Only two presses have been modified to include a diathermical (high frequency) pre-heating unit. There are no modern automatic mass-production machines in the Gumon plant. The tool making shop is sufficiently large but badly equipped. There is only one hydraulic copying machine used to produce forms from a pattern. Gumon produces its own bakelite sheets which are pressed into plates and tubing. It also makes imitation leather and produces textgumoid, from which gears are manufactured.\*\*\* The military significance of this plant is quite small.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25X1 \*  Comment: The Bratislava Central Management refers presumably to the sub-organ of the Central Management for Industry in Prague, known as the Kablo Branch of the Central Management. This Kablo Branch, so-called, was created in order to satisfy the demands of the workers in Kablo National Enterprise subsidiaries that their firms become independent national enterprises. To accede to the workers' wishes, yet retain the more efficient centralized system of management, the Central Management in Prague made nationalized enterprises of all Kablo subsidiaries, and then gave Kablo the title of the Kablo Branch of the Central Management. In this manner the former relationship of subsidiary cable manufacturing plants to Kablo remained essentially unchanged.

25X1 \*\*  Comment: Textunoid consists of layers of linen joined by polymerization of bakelite (sic) under high pressure.

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